

August 5, 2011

**Dear Community Resident:**

As you may know, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting an investigation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (Site) along the San Jacinto River. One of the objectives of this investigation is to determine if chemicals associated with the waste impoundments at the Site have migrated from the waste impoundments to the residential areas along the river. In order to make this determination, the EPA is seeking to sample a number of residential properties. You are being contacted to determine if you have an interest in participating in this voluntary, no-cost program.

**What does the sampling involve?**

If you choose to participate in this program, soil samples will be collected from four different areas of your yard. Those samples would be collected using a specialized tool called a hand auger to bore about 6 inches into the soil at each location. The sampling only requires walking access into your yard by the sampling team. No motorized or powered equipment is involved. The disturbance to your yard at each sample location will likely be less than 8 inches in diameter total. An EPA representative will be present with the contractor performing the work during the sampling event to coordinate with you. The contractor is performing the work for private parties under an EPA Unilateral Administrative Order, CERCLA Docket No. 06-03-10.

**What we will do to repair your yard after the sampling:**

After a sample has been collected, excess soil will be placed back into the boring and tamped in. If necessary, clean topsoil will be available to the sampling crew to add to the original soil so that the hole is completely filled. If the area is covered by grass, then prior to sample collection, a small section of grass will be cut away and saved by the sampling team. Once the hole has been filled, the small grass square will be placed back on the soil surface, tamped down, and watered.

**When would the sampling occur?**

Depending on the weather, the sampling team would likely sample your yard within two or three days of you allowing the sampling crew and the EPA representative access. We would notify you of the date and time when we expect the sampling to occur, and in some cases, we may conduct the sampling immediately after you agree to provide access.

**Will the EPA report the results of the soil testing on my property?**

The EPA will provide each property owner who participates in this program with a summary of the sampling results for that property owner's yard. Any reports that are made public will not identify specific residences that were sampled, but would only speak in general terms of areas that were sampled along with a discussion of the results.

**How can I find out more about the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site?**

You can contact the following EPA representatives:

Gary Miller (214) 665-8318

Stephen Tzhone (214) 665-8409

Valmichael Leos (214) 665-2283

Or visit the EPA website: [http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/texas/san\\_jacinto/](http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/texas/san_jacinto/)

**How do I sign up to have my yard tested?**

If you are interested in participating in this residential soil sampling program, please review and sign the access agreement for the sampling team. Thank you for your time and consideration.